

Trojan Horse Supports Marksmanship Competition

By: 1LT Jeff Robertson II

The 2009 Phantom Warrior Combat Marksmanship Competition was held on 22 – 26 June at Ft Hood. The 36th Engineer Brigade hosted the event for III Corps with the support the 8th Engineer Battalion and the 20th Engineer Battalion. The 8th ran the the North Fort Hood Range Complex while the 20th ran the Clear Creek. The competition consisted of advanced combat live-fire training events that were applicable to all military small arms firing disciplines. The 191 competitors from across all components of the Army demonstrated their combat firing skills in different scenarios testing their ability to fire accurately at long distances and under the stresses of time, fatigue, and heat. Along the way, competitors deepened their esprit de corps while raising the standards for marksmanship excellence throughout III Corps.

After weeks of planning and a week of setup and rehearsals, the 8th Engineer Battalion was prepared to receive the eager competitors. The Soldiers of the 74th Multi-Role Bridge Company operated 30 manual targets from a target pit behind the range for all the firing sequences. The River Rats worked tirelessly behind the scenes despite the grueling work conditions and excruciating heat of over 100 degrees, ensuring a seamless and transparent five day event. The Forward Support Company was the turnkey solution for all ammunition management on the range keeping the troops' bellies full and the water buffalos filled with ice. They were responsible for establishing the ammunition storage point, transporting the ammunition from the ammunition storage facility to the range, and flawlessly distributing ammunition to the competitors. Soldiers of the HHC were responsible for range operations and battle tracking. In a short time after the event began, the Trailmasters had established flawless communications and synchronized event management.

The 8th Engineer Battalion even had one of their own, 2LT Daniel Jenkins, compete and win 1st place in the individual shotgun competition and leading the 36th Engineer Brigade Shotgun Team to an overall 2nd place finish in the team shotgun competition.

Through their dedication and teamwork, the 8th Engineer Battalion was able to deliver a world class training event of the highest standard — and even had some fun in the process!



Ssg Dailey from the 74th Multi-Role Bridge Company is shown assisting a competitor with a scoring question



Competitors firing on the 100 yard assault course



SGT Sampson from the 74th Multi-Role Bridge Company is shown tallying a competitor's score



SPC Houk from FSC is shown helping SFC Culpepper and SSG Essary unload food for morning chow



SFC Culpepper and PV2 Morris are shown helping serve Soldiers from the 74th Multi-Role Bridge Company and HHC during morning chow